

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

Winter 1-11-2013

Volume 48 - Issue 13 - Friday, January 11, 2013

Rose Thorn Staff

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, library@rose-hulman.edu

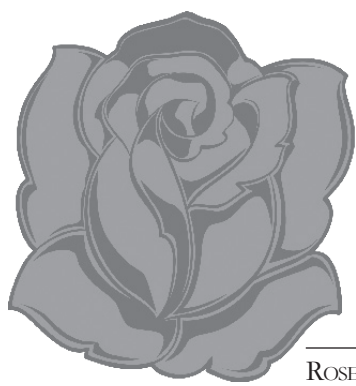
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.rose-hulman.edu/rosethorn>

Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 48 - Issue 13 - Friday, January 11, 2013" (2013). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 36.
<https://scholar.rose-hulman.edu/rosethorn/36>

THE MATERIAL POSTED ON THIS ROSE-HULMAN REPOSITORY IS TO BE USED FOR PRIVATE STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH AND MAY NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. SOME CONTENT IN THE MATERIAL POSTED ON THIS REPOSITORY MAY BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT. ANYONE HAVING ACCESS TO THE MATERIAL SHOULD NOT REPRODUCE OR DISTRIBUTE BY ANY MEANS COPIES OF ANY OF THE MATERIAL OR USE THE MATERIAL FOR DIRECT OR INDIRECT COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE WITHOUT DETERMINING THAT SUCH ACT OR ACTS WILL NOT INFRINGE THE COPYRIGHT RIGHTS OF ANY PERSON OR ENTITY. ANY REPRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION OF ANY MATERIAL POSTED ON THIS REPOSITORY IS AT THE SOLE RISK OF THE PARTY THAT DOES SO.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspaper at Rose-Hulman Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Rose Thorn Archive by an authorized administrator of Rose-Hulman Scholar. For more information, please contact weir1@rose-hulman.edu.



THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • TERRE HAUTE, IN • [HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu) • FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2013 • VOLUME 48 • ISSUE 13

saturday
showers
60°/34°

sunday
showers
36°/23°

monday
partly cloudy
32°/23°



Is *Les Misérables* a good translation to the big screen?
Page 4



Need help finding the perfect headphones? Check out Living for some help.
Page 5



Is New Year's the right time to make a resolution?
Page 6



Austin Weatherford earns his 1,000th point in the Engineers' 11th straight win. **Page 7**

The search continues

Presidential search committee narrows field to final candidates

Claire Stark • staff writer

After the Holiday Break the search for the next president continued to near a conclusion. The process, which began during the summer of last year, started with a search of over 50 new candidates.

Drawn in from a variety of sources, including ads, references and the help of executive search firm Heidrick & Struggles. Applicants came from across the United States and from multiple fields including academia, government, not-for-profits, and the business world.

Though specifics about

the candidates could not be disclosed at this time, student body president Nick Addante – who is serving as student representative on the committee – is certain they have narrowed down to the best candidates for the final step in the process.

“The position of president is multifaceted and requires a well-rounded and experienced person. I believe the committee has found an excellent group of individuals each of whom could be successful in the position if given the opportunity,” Addante said, adding that the entire process has been an enlightening experience

for him.

Out of the initial applicant pool, 11 semifinalists were picked to have in-person interviews. Held just before break over three days, the interview process was run by the Presidential Search Committee. This group will be shortened to a list of three or four who will visit campus next month.

The campus visits will mark the last step in the process, after which the committee will present three final candidates to the Board of Trustees, at which point the board will make a final decision on Rose-Hulman's next president.

Sophomore programming team to compete in Russia

Jason Latimer • copy editor

Last November, Rose-Hulman sent software engineering major Alex Memering and computer science majors Anthony Piergiovanni and Erik Sanders, all sophomores, to compete at the Association for Computing Machinery's Mid-Central USA Regional Contest at University of Illinois at Springfield.

The three students, led by Director of Software Engineering Dr. Shawn Bohner, raced against both the clock and about 20 other teams to solve a set of difficult programming problems.

The five-hour competition, sponsored by IBM, consisted of eight problems. Rose's team gained an early lead, thanks to its divide-and-conquer strategy and

quick teamwork.

“We each solved easy problems on our own and worked together on the harder ones,” Piergiovanni said. “That let us get a fast start to really concentrate on the hard ones.”

Since there was only one computer available to the team, Memering said, “each of us would work on a problem, two on paper and another coding and testing theirs.”

In the end, Rose solved six of the problems, a feat only 11 of the other 143 schools in the region could manage. Out of all the other schools, Rose-Hulman placed fourth overall.

Continued on page 3

Fightin' Engineers snag No. 23 ranking

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

An 11-game winning streak leading to a 13 - 1 start, guided by the nation's No. 1 defense.

The reigning HCAC Tournament champions could not have asked for a better start to the 2012 - 2013 season, and this past week the Fightin' Engineers garnered national attention with a No. 23 ranking in the weekly D3Hoops.com poll.

After weeks just outside the Top 25, Division III coaches, sports information directors, and media members gave Rose-Hulman their first in-season ranking since 1999. Coincidentally, prior to last year's postseason run, 1999 was the last year the Fightin' Engineers made an appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Though any team appreciates a high ranking, Coach Jim Shaw says the rankings and winning streaks are a result of consistency from a solid team, not an indicator of their future success.

“What we have done has zero bearing on what we will do. At the end of the year you take pride and satisfaction in all that... We would like to say we are ranked high, but it is really no big deal.”

Continued on page 7



After winning the All-Engineers Classic to open the season, the Engineers have recorded the best start in school history at 13 - 1. Junior Julian Strickland continues to lead the team with 13.9 points per game, and senior Austin Weatherford trails with 10.5.

Rose-Hulman News

events

Learn-A-Language

Snack on dimsum and other Asian treats while learning a new language!
0267, Tonight, 6 p.m.

Pirate Casino Night

Enjoy a night of “grub, games, and buried treasure,” sponsored by SAB.
Kahn Rooms, Tonight, 8 p.m.



Year of the River Celebration

Help kick off the yearlong event series celebrating the Wabash River!
Vigo County Library, January 17, 12:10 p.m.

Synthetic Biology Seminar

Stop by for a quick learning opportunity from the ABBE department.
GM Room, January 17, 6:30 p.m.

sports

Terre Haute Double Dual Meet
January 12 - 12:30 p.m.

Women's BB vs. Transylvania
January 12 - 1 p.m.

Men's BB vs. Transylvania
January 12 - 3 p.m.

Women's BB vs. Franklin
January 16 - 7:30 p.m.

			8		2			
9			3	7			2	
		2						
3		9		1	4			7
8	4		6					
							5	3
	9						7	
6		7			9		4	
1		4	7			8	9	5

		4					5	
	9		6	8				
2			9	7		4	6	
					6		4	
						5	3	
	2					9		1
3			8					
	4	7						
8			3		9	1		

printable-puzzles.com



6710 Wabash Avenue - two blocks east of campus

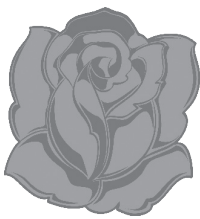
Home of the King Tiger 20"

(812) 877-7700

10% off for Rose students

See the menu at rolliespizza.com

Next week in the Thorn is elections week. Stop by Olin 257 on Wednesday at 5:15pm if you're interested in becoming an editor.

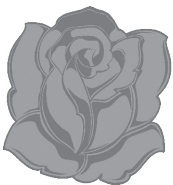


THE ROSE THORN

5500 WABASH AVENUE CM 5037, TERRE HAUTE, IN 47803-3920 • PHONE:(812) 877-8255 • FAX: (812) 877-8166 • HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU

We are Rose-Hulman’s independent student newspaper. We keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information.

Alex Mullans • *editor-in-chief*
Marcus Willerscheidt • *editor-in-chief*
Kurtis Zimmerman • *news*
Kevin Weaver • *entertainment*
Katrina Brandenburg • *living*
Richard Thai • *opinions*
Matt Dierksmeier • *sports*
Sean Gorsky • *flipside*
Jessica Reames • *photo*
Emily Asman • *copy*
Jason Latimer • *copy*
Arda Tugay • *webmaster*
Katrina Brandenburg • *business*



Richard House • *adviser*
Ranjana Chandramouli • *writer*
Katie Dial • *writer*
Luke Woolley • *writer*
Garrett Meyer • *writer*
Ashton Wagner • *writer*
Claire Stark • *writer*
Casey Langdale • *writer*
Bethany Martin • *writer*
Thomas Dykes • *writer*
Dan Maginot • *writer*
Derek Robinson • *writer*
Jesse Sestito • *writer*

ISSUES of The Rose Thorn are published on the first through ninth Fridays of each academic quarter.

WEEKLY MEETINGS OCCUR at 5:15 p.m. on the first through ninth Wednesdays of each academic quarter. All members of the Rose-Hulman community are welcome to attend.

SUBMISSION of articles, photographs, art, and letters to the editor is encouraged. Submissions may be made by email to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or in person to Hulman Memorial Union room 249. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday.

THE RIGHTS to accept submissions or changes made after the deadline, to include submissions in the online edition at thorn.rose-hulman.edu, to edit submissions insofar as the original intent of the submission remains unaltered, and to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print are reserved by the editors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be no longer than 600 words in length and must contain the writer’s (electronic) signature.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED herein are those of their respective authors and, with the exception of the Staff View, do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.

Influenza prevalence rising in Terre Haute

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

Local hospitals are seeing an increasing number of influenza-like cases as the season wears on.

Terre Haute Regional Hospital has reported a larger number of flu cases, and Union Hospital is asking visitors to refrain from visiting if they have any symptoms of the illness.

Though no specific numbers were given locally, the state of Indiana has seen seven deaths from influenza since flu season ramped up in November.

“We are now well into what appears to be a somewhat severe flu season,” State Health Commissioner Gregory Larkin said in a recent news release.

Cheryl McCarter, family nurse practitioner with Terre Haute Regional, tells the Tribune Star that “[t]he best defense is getting the flu shot.”

Health officials claim the current strain affecting most patients is the H3N2 virus, which tends to be more severe than its counterparts. The current flu shot being given will protect against H3N2, along with H1N1 and Influenza B, according to the state Department of Health.

Local clinics and pharmacies are still stocked with the flu shot, and everyone six months of age or older is recommended to be vaccinated.

Flu symptoms include fever above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, headache, fatigue, cough, muscle aches, and sore throat. Within 48 hours of experiencing symptoms, treatment options are available with a physician’s consultation.

As always, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends frequent hand-washing, exercising, eating healthily, and staying home from school and work if sick.

Clinic/Pharmacy	Address	Phone No.	Cost
API Clinic	3051 US Hwy 41	812-917-2358	\$35
Kroger Pharmacy	25 th /Wabash	812-235-7326	\$25
Walgreens Pharmacy	13 th /Wabash	812-234-5147	\$31.99
CVS Pharmacy	25 th /Wabash	812-235-4322	\$31.99
Regional Family Medical Center	2250 E. Wabash Ave.	812-232-3225	\$25
Vigo Co. Health Department	696 South First St.	812-462-3431	\$20

Health officials are urging everyone to get vaccinated from the flu. Before visiting a clinic or pharmacy, it is suggested you call ahead to make sure the shot is still in stock.

Health Services

Programming team, from page 1

“We entered the competition without expecting to do this well. Last year we solved two (problems),” Piergiovanni said. “So it was a great surprise how well we did. It shows how much the last year of practice helped us.”

According to Piergiovanni, he and Sanders had been solving similar problems since last winter quarter as preparation. By doing this

However, Memering did not join until after the interest meeting for the team, a few weeks prior to the competition.

Because of the team’s superb performance, the team will travel to St. Petersburg, Russia this summer to compete in the International Collegiate Programming Competition by ACM, marking the second time a team from Rose has reached this far in the contest. The last American university to win on the global stage was Harvey Mudd College in 1997.

“It’s a great opportunity to increase Rose’s reputation,” Piergiovanni said. “The problems will be harder, but we are preparing for it.”

“We think that it’s awesome that we are getting to compete and really ex-

cited to go to Russia,” Memering said. “Going into the regional we didn’t expect to do very well and that turned out pretty good, so for this competition we’ll probably go in thinking the same thing since it’s already worked for us.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

Biden to recommend gun violence measures by Tuesday

Vice President Joe Biden will release a set of recommendations to President Obama by Tuesday after leading a federal task force on curbing gun violence. While the discussion will be far from over, Biden said that many groups pushed for universal background checks. He also added that never before has he experienced such a push to “do something about high-capacity magazines.” The president put the task force – who has met with several groups on all sides of the issue – to work following last month’s massacre in Newtown, Connecticut. Besides specific gun control measures, discussion has also centered on mental health considerations. Other stakeholders, including medical and religious groups and educators, have met with the task force. Additionally, Attorney General Eric Holder, a member of the task force, met with 10 retailers, among them Wal-Mart, Dick’s Sporting Goods, and Bass Pro Shops.

Sandusky moves for new trial

After being convicted on multiple counts of child sex abuse, former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky argued a motion for a new trial on Thursday. No ruling was made immediately following the hearing, but if the motion is granted, the trial court will re-examine the case and possibly rule over its earlier judgment. Sandusky’s lawyers claim he was convicted with insufficient evidence and that the defense was not given enough time to prepare after receiving documentation from the prosecutor. They added that some counts against Sandusky were too broad and should have been dismissed. After jurors convicted Sandusky on 45 out of 48 sexual abuse counts, Judge John Cleland sentenced the 68-year-old to at least 30 years and no more than 60 years in prison for abusing 10 boys. Eight young men who testified said the acts of sexual abuse occurred in Penn State’s facilities, along with hotel rooms and the basement of Sandusky’s home.

Divorce granted for 15 year-old Saudi teen

After running away back to her family due to fighting, a 15 year-old Saudi girl has been granted divorce from her 70-year-old husband, according to Saudi Arabia’s Human Rights Commission. News outlets exploded with news of the marriage after the man claimed he was fooled into a \$20,000 dowry by the bride’s family before the marriage was broken off. While the man has claimed that he is 70 and believed his bride was 25, the commission has said they believe he is 86. There is no minimum age for marriage in Saudi Arabia, despite a push for a stronger law in recent years. Human rights activists across the world claimed the agreement appeared as if the girl had been “sold” than married due to the large age difference, and Dr. Suhaila Zein al-Abedin of the Saudi National Association for Human Rights was among many pushing for the girl’s parents to be held accountable for the situation.

What is there to love about Sharp Flats East? Everything!

Great location! The closest off campus housing to RHIT!
Located on Hunt and US 40
Call us today! (812) 877-1146
6710 E. Wabash Ave. Terre Haute, IN 47803

Efficiencies	Utilities included	234 square feet	\$370/month
Studios	Utilities Included	266 square feet	\$410/month
One Bdrm.	You pay electric	588 square feet	\$475/month
Pets	Welcome	Pet Fee	

Amenities:

- Within .05 mile of RHIT
- Rollie’s Pizza on location! (They serve beer, too!)
- Pets allowed by prior approval only; \$200 pet fee
 - Laundry on site
 - Student community
- Some furnished units available
 - Lots of parking
 - WIFI

- Check out our website – www.sharpflats.com for additional housing in the downtown area of Terre Haute



icpc.baylor.edu

and also taking advanced programming courses at Rose, they greatly improved their chances of success.

NEVER BEFORE HAS TRAGEDY BEEN SO BEAUTIFUL

“Les Misérables” brings the musical classical to classic cinema

Bethany Martin • staff writer

“Les Miserables” is the fourth longest running musical on Broadway and is topped only by “Chicago,” “Cats,” and “Phantom of the Opera.” It is highly revered as one of the greatest musicals of all time and you would not expect an “X-Men” star like Hugh Jackman to head the cast in this brilliant adaptation. He and his costars performed spectacularly in this emotional tale of a man and his journey through life. Anne Hathaway did an incredible job acting the desperate woman who would do anything for her young daughter; it is a great change from the leather encased confidence we saw from her in “The Dark Knight Rises.”

“Les Miserables” is a sung through play with only a few spoken words filled in, and to get the embodiment of the emotions the director, Tom Hooper, had the actors sing their pieces live. Most of the singing patterns were improvised. In fact, in Hugh Jackman’s soliloquy the cameraman followed him around in a way that he could move around and act in any way he wished. On whole it was a genius idea, but there were, on rare occasions, instances of overly dramatic singing and acting. However, the improvisations give the movie



such a raw feeling that we can overlook the negatives.

For the most part the movie had a realistic and grimy feel to it. It felt as if it had actually happened, as if those people did truly exist, every scene except one. The visuals for the song that the prostitutes sing around Fantine (Hathaway) as she becomes one of them reminds me very much of a Tim Burton movie. The makeup for the prostitutes looked like the Queen of Hearts.

This was probably done to give the scene a creepy, disgusting vibe, but all it did was remind me of “Alice in Wonderland.”

There were comic relief bits just to keep you from going overboard on the crying. Those were mostly delivered by Helena Bonham Carter and Sacha Baron Cohen (‘Borat,’ ‘Bruno,’ ‘The Dictator’) in their roles as the awful innkeepers that “care for” Fantine’s daughter Cosette while she is away. These people rob

from their customers in their song “Master of the House.” It is quite humorous, but follows the line of the movie as being dark and unsettling.

If you are looking for the feel-good movie of the year, this is not it. This movie is full of sadness and tragedy, but it will remind you that human beings can be good. If you go to see this movie, know full well that you will need an entire box of tissues. If you manly men are worried

lesmiserablesmovie.com

about random strangers seeing you cry, don’t worry about it. They will be so awestruck by the power of the performance that they will hardly notice you.

Rating: 4/5 elephants



BELIEVE IN THE SPIRAL POWER

“Gurren Lagann” pierces the heavens

Casey Langdale • staff writer

Like a fair number of Rose I have been known to watch the occasional anime series, though I found most of them to be boring and too slow paced for my taste. “Gurren Lagann,” however, is completely different from these. It relies solely on the idea that the more epic/comical a fight the better the anime is and the less emotional heart felt it is the more fights can be packed in.

The story starts off with a reasonable enough theory everyone: everyone is buried underground and only two people have any dream of escaping. Typical, right? Well then shortly after the start of the story they find a tiny little mecha and end up bringing the thing to the surface with them.

Of course the mecha they found can’t be just a plain old mecha though; this one has special powers. Namely it can absorb parts of other mecha into it and gets significantly more impressive over the course of the series. Next it relies heavily on drills created from a thing called spiral energy.

Being just like your average, every guy who have a now giant robot at their command these two underground escapee’s decide to wage a war on the surface race of animal people that for some reason hate humans. This story is exactly as complicated and simple as it needs to be to hold together the action in between their battles.

The best part is that as they progress deeper and deeper into the story the more like total BOSSES all the mecha become while at the same time they somehow manage to look just a tad bit more comical. As for the heroes of the story, they constantly manage to top everything they’ve done in every previous fight so far. In other words, explosions are bigger, jumps are higher, and the all-encompassing drill spins faster.

The point I’m getting at is this. “Gurren Lagann” is an extremely good anime that said screw the long



gurrenlagann.wikia.com

pauses and over emotional stuff, we are just going to have a lot of fighting and toss in a pretty decent story too. Of the five anime series that I’ve watched, it is the only one which I would watch again if I had the time. The next time you have a movie night or start on a new series, “Gurren Lagann” should be one of the top choices of what you are going to watch.

Rating: 4.5/5 Elephants



DC UNLEASHED

Unleash your inner hero

Kyle Bristol • guest writer

Gifted with the powers of your favorite DC Comics super hero you must choose whether you will defend the innocent as a Hero or subject them to your cruel whims as a villain in this Action RPG. “DC Universe” was originally designed as an Action Massively Multiplayer RPG for consoles and was later ported to computers. This means controls, combat, and graphics are all well developed, streamlined, and easy to pick up in this superhero fantasy game. When creating your character you must chose which power you want, with each power providing you two combat role choices (healer, tank, damage, controller, etc.). You also must choose a weapon, although your weapon can be changed later on. On top of all this you are given a set of iconic powers from your favorite heroes and villains to choose from, and a travel method (flight, super speed, or gadgets), which can also be incorporated, into your skill selection.

“DC Universe Online” is a beautiful and large world with every character down to the individual minions voice acted in a rewarding and comic fashion. I couldn’t stop laughing when a demon of wrath minion charged up and declared “All your soul are belong to us!” Missions tend to get very re-

petitive, but the wonderfully designed combat system and widely varied settings keep the game interesting throughout. While appearance customization is greatly lacking especially compared to its competitor “Champions Online,” DC decided to go with the plan that you’ll never look really unique as a hero or villain, but it’s nearly impossible to not look really cool as one. Instead you show of how unique you are with how specialized your skill selection can be. It is actually possible to build a character who’s combat is based solely around the fact that he can fly.

Overall “DC Universe Online” gets an 4.5/5. Pros: Free to Play. Combat never gets boring in this game. You’re always going to look awesome. Skill customization is amazing. Graphics are wonderful. Voice acting is excellent. Cons: Some of the really cool powers, like a lantern ring, require real world money. It’s very hard to make your character look unique. In Summary: I think this is the best super hero MMO on the market. All of the powers are fun, and combat is beautifully designed.

Rating: 4.5/5 Elephants



Headphones: the good, the bad, the bass

Ashton Wagner • staff writer

Do you have some left over money from Christmas, and are you interested in enhancing your enjoyment of music? With the popularity of portable media players, headphones have come to dominate the audio market. You can't walk down the street in a major city without seeing someone with Beats by Dre hanging around his neck, or a pair of Apple earbuds hanging out of his pocket.

Before you commit to buying a nice pair of headphones, you should do your research to find the set that will be best for you. For example, Beats by Dre and Bose brand headphones have become major players in the consumer audio market, but surprisingly they may not be what you want to buy. Beats are high in style and emphasize the bass in music, but the treble and midrange response leaves a lot to be desired up to the point that it becomes difficult to enjoy musical styles other than hip-hop and techno. And there are other headphones out there that have tighter, more defined bass, such as those from V-Moda, Denon, and Sony's Bass Heavy line.

Bose headphones, alternatively, sound fairly good but are very expensive for the quality of sound

that you are getting. Bose tends to be one of those companies where you are paying quite a bit

acoustic music, but many people have found they enjoy other styles as well on them. Grados

experience. It also doesn't take a lot of power to run them. There are also the monitor companies like Shure, who make headphones for studio monitoring. Their products will be more accurate, which you might think would be a good thing, but means that any imperfections in the recording of a song will be glaringly obvious. Some people thoroughly enjoy them for music playback nonetheless.

Finally, we come to the true high end headphones, those costing from several hundred to several thousand dollars. Hifiman, Audeze, and Stax are a few of the companies that cater to this market. All of these headphones will need amplification, which brings me to my next

Some headphones are hard to power and also need a headphone amplifier. Good entry level products are the Audioengine D1 and the Audioquest Firefly. These are both DACs and modestly powerful amplifiers that plug right into the USB on your computer. If you need more power, look at companies like Schiit.

All this is well and good for portable and personal audio, but what if you want to share music with others? The best sound systems in the world are two channel setups with tower speakers and dedicated pre/power amplifiers, but in a college dorm room and on a college budget, powered monitors often make much more sense. M-Audio, Audioengine, Vana-too, and many others make incredible sounding powered speakers that you can simply plug your iPod into, or better yet, a DAC.



These M50 headphones from Audio Tehnica are known for their strong, tight bass and sparkly yet smooth high frequencies.
audioreview.com/

of money to get the name. Bose headphones tend to be more neutral (meaning the play all frequencies of sound at about the same volume) and have quite a few great competitors that many feel can offer equivalent sound for much less. Sennheiser is one of the big ones, and they are famous for their midrange. They do great with classical, jazz, and

are all about classic rock and anything guitar driven, and Beyerdynamic tend to do well with hip-hop, modern rock, and many other styles of music.

Audio Technica is also a great company and makes one of the best values in headphones, the M50. It has strong, tight bass and sparkly yet smooth high frequencies for a very pleasant listening

point: Buying a DAC and/or an amplifier.

A headphone DAC is what converts your digital signal from your computer into an analog signal that can play on your headphones. The headphone output/DAC in your computer is rather poor, and buying a standalone DAC can yield significant improvements.

If you decide to invest in audio, first and foremost make sure you're getting something that is going to make you enjoy the music. Do lots of research, checking places like Audiogon.com and Headfi.org. There is a whole community of people out there that want to help find something that will make YOU happy.

SEND YOUR LIVING SECTION THEME IDEAS IN NOW! EMAIL THORN-LIVING@ROSE-HULMAN.EDU TO SEE YOUR IDEAS IN PRINT!

The other side of the desk The codex: a gift, an heirloom, a book

Mark Minster • faculty writer

Does it sound better if I say my favorite device is “the codex” rather than just “the book?” “Book” maybe sounds wistful and quaint, even cliché. “Codex” at least sounds like a company or a gizmo, but then again, mispronunciation turns it into something else old-fashioned—Kodak camera film—or a feminine hygiene product. Maybe “book” is better.

Either way, it's my favorite innovation of all time, and it's two thousand years old. Pages get stitched together and printed on both sides, recto and verso. The printing press helps, as do precision binderies and indelible inks. But, the real genius is in the layout and dimensionality, in heft and topology and in the margins. Unlike scrolls, which preceded it, the book lets readers skip around. Unlike e-books and web pages, which techies postulate will succeed it, the book occupies space. It perdures.

Think of a cookbook, its smears of spiced butter and its handy indices. Think of those places you or your mother or roommate has penciled in a correction or an addition. Nostalgia says, “that's her handwriting, isn't it?” Level-headedness says, “tuck that jotted-down cookie recipe right here.”

Think of a dictionary. The online versions help with words you knew enough about to search for. But, the book encourages browsing and peripheral sight. The book helps with words you've never even seen, words you didn't know you needed. Read right, and the book opens vistas, emerges from tunnels, delivers from caves.

Think of a paperback, kept in a pocket. Your fingers smudge its ink and take up its smell. You bend back the front and write, “to you, who are loved,” and now it becomes hers. She can shelve it if she wants, or stack it by her bed. She can jot in it, doodle in the gaps, writing “yes” here and “lovely” there, or you can star passages and dog-ear pages.

It's hard to give someone a book, even a friend. You have to know what he's read, what he likes to read, what challenges him or brings him joy. You're taking a risk. You're implying that you think he'll like it, or needs it: you're asking him to make space in his rooms for a few more ounces. And if it's too childish, or preachy, or not what he needs, you will have misread not the book, but him. It's so much easier to get a gift card, avoiding the valleys of letdown by blasting off the peaks of intimacy.

But, I will take with me through life these old Greek schoolbooks, my father's, which he handed to me once on an inkling I might enjoy them. They will be my son's someday, whenever he wants them.

MP3: THE PERSONAL SHIELD

Casey Langdale • staff writer

You know that awkward moment when a group of people is standing around someplace and for long enough that they feel they have to start a conversation with someone, anyone really who is in the same situation as them? Normally someone will finally cave and start a conversation as everyone has been secretly dreading.

Well, in my personal experience these conversations tend to be some of the best ones I have ever had. So while I am bored out of my skull at the airport and the person sitting next to me for five hours has an iPad that they just will not turn off, I start to get a little irritated.

Those iPads and many times iPods as well are used to pass an occasional ten minutes of free time that people run into and cannot figure out how to use. Think about all the app games for the devices, which really are not meant to be used for more than twenty minutes. These range from “angry birds” to chess against the computer and can be positively mind-numbing.

People who play these games are constantly depriving themselves of the opportunity to meet someone new, since they would rather pass the time a couple minutes faster. That being said, there are some people who I would have gladly paid money to end the conversation rather than have to keep the conversation going.

The other thing that is really obnoxious about iPads and iPods is that they will only break at the most inconvenient of times. Several of my friends have had an iPod that they were throwing across a room and could not break it.

A different friend of mine, who took extremely good care of hers and had over an inch of protective plastic covering everything but the screen dropped the iPod only once. The screen cracked all the way across its width as she was in the middle of reading a book for a humanities class. Her only choice was to deal with it for another week.

My point is this: People put too much time into something that will inevitably break, leaving the owner stranded and without any way to avoid doing what they have missed the chance to practice or any way to do what they needed to do. So, next time you are surrounded by a group of people, who are not talking simply because the silence is so awkward, try to break the silence instead of hiding behind one of these devices.

The random and unpredictable conversations you can have with people you barely know can often end up being the most interesting thing that happens over the course of a day.

The other side of the desk: The web of life



Thomas Adams
faculty writer

Consider memes for a moment. You know, those witty little pictures with pithy comments on them, the ones floating all over the Internet? Here's the thing about memes. They're not memes.

A meme refers to an idea, concept, behavior, etc., passed from person to person within a culture. British evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins first coined the term in his 1976 book "The Selfish Gene" by shortening the Greek work mimeme, meaning "to imitate," much in the same way that the word "gene" is a shortened form of gemmule, the particle of heredity imagined by Charles Darwin in his Pangenesis theory. Essentially Dawkins created the word "meme" to represent an analogue of a biological gene, proposing that the stuff of culture may also go through the processes of variation, mutation, competition, and inheritance. The so-called memes of the Internet can serve as a means of transmitting an actual meme, but by themselves they are no more memes than my eyes are the gene that gives them their dreamy hazel color.

The irony of a meme not being a meme lies in the fact that if we grant any validity to the meme idea, then the Internet itself represents the ultimate laboratory for tracking the cultural evolution it encapsulates. The Web gives us sample sizes in the billions, with the generational turnover of ideas rivaling the lifespan of fruit flies. That the word meme could have mutated so quickly from meaning "cultural gene" into meaning a picture of a cuddly kitten that "can haz cheezburger" testifies to this fact. The interesting thing will be to see which bits of web culture survive in the long run and which ones ultimately go the way of short-necked giraffes.

Take the ubiquitous pound sign, for example. Not too

long ago I started seeing things like #Medicine, #Eat-local, and #Homedecor popping up everywhere, almost all at once. Having no clue what these things meant, I did a little Googling and found that they were "hashtags," an extension of the keyword idea of a tag. But no sooner had I learned that a hashtag was just a tag than did I also find that people don't always use hashtags as tags. Most prevalent among these alternate uses is to place # before a word or phrase as a form of pseudo punctuation, #Handlebarmoustaches, for example, being the written equivalent of throwing one's fist to the air and shouting, "Yeah! Go handlebar moustaches!" The hashtag was born and had already spawned a new species by the time I got around to learning about it.

For me the jury is still out on whether hastags will survive. I would not be the least bit surprised if in two years' time everyone has abandoned the pound sign completely, much in the way they seem to have abandoned MySpace. (And just when I got up to five friends!) But, neither would it surprise me if the hashtag becomes as indispensable as the use of a search engine. This unpredictability stems from the fact that as we experience rapid change we often have difficulty distinguishing trends of significant utility from those that amount to simple fashion. I find this quite natural, however, as I believe the most meaningful aspects of culture have elements of both.

Now, I have heard many an intellectual rant against what they see as the capriciousness of the Internet, believing it to be indicative of the fickle mush-headedness of the users and content providers that comprise it. To the extent that cyberspace teems with misinformation, as well as with a large number of strange and ever-changing cultural animals, they have a point. But at heart, I think their motivation largely stems from the all too human tendency to resist the inevitability of change.

I personally do not fear such change, nor do I lament its increasingly fast pace, an acceleration the Internet has harbingered. In fact, for me dispassionately observing the evolution of life online has a certain Zen aspect to it. I can even imagine a master instructing his pupil to contemplate the Koan, "A meme cannot be a meme by virtue of the meme within it."

#meme #hashtag

PROBLEMS KEEPING RESOLUTIONS

Bethany Martin • staff writer

Why do we wait until the calendar changes to change? It is obviously not very effective since the percentage of resolutions kept is dangerously low. The first week of the year may be the most dieted or exercised, but we go right back into our lazy ways within the week. We choose New Year's because it is convenient. It is right after the holidays that celebrate eating everything that is not a vegetable, and we are about to face the challenge of remembering to write the New Year at the top of our papers. You feel incredibly guilty about what you have done this last year and what to make

amends for, and what better time than New Year's? It's a fresh start. You can start that diet you ruined at Thanksgiving and then again at Christmas, plus you don't really have to start it until January 1st. And then, the first of the year comes around, and you are still munching on those glorious potato chips. If you really have something to get done or

accomplish, stay away from making a resolution. It will probably end up ruining your plans.

Those resolutions just allow you to get out of whatever you were planning on changing. I bet some of you even think, deep down, "I really don't

Going to the gym once or twice might burn a couple calories, but it will not make you any healthier. If you want to make a real change in your life, you cannot wait for an unreliable society to push you in the right direction.

Resolutions allow us to get



Start the year off right and make goals, not resolutions

nymag.com

have to follow that resolution, everyone else will give up on theirs soon enough." That's the problem with New Year's resolutions: they give you a way out. No one really expects you to keep your resolution. You just have to keep pretending for the first week or so, and then you are done. You have accomplished your resolution by the standards of your peers.

comfortable with the thought that we can wait to change. We can wait to stop smoking, lose weight, study more, or make better life choices. We can wait until everyone else decides to change too, but who are we kidding? It is

just procrastination. It is the whole of civilization procrastinating together. What is wrong with today? Why is this insignificant non-holiday unworthy of your quitting soda or starting a new routine work out? New Year's is just another day. Stop waiting for it and start now. Waiting a whole other year won't accomplish anything.

New Year's Eve on 44th Street Times Square

Elena Chong • guest writer

It all started a few days after Christmas. I asked my friends about our so discussed plan to go to Times Square's New Year's ball drop. They said that if we were going, we would probably have to wait from 1 to 10 PM without being able to move from our spot in the freezing cold section of 7th Avenue. Desperate for a good plan for New Year's, one of my friends browsed through the net and found a pretty cheap offer from "Virgil's Real Barbeque" on 44th street. It would get us inside Times Square, only one block from the main stage.

At 10:15 pm December 31, we got into Virgil's after three long hours of walking, running, and pushing through the crowded street of Times Square. Thanks to a kind police officer that escorted us from 59th street to 44th street, we were able to see Carly Rae Jepsen performing "Call Me Maybe" on stage and get to the restaurant on time for dinner. At this point, my friends and I couldn't care less where we were having our dinner, so we sat on the dance floor like everyone else. We were just glad to be in there.

The clock hit 11:15, and I went outside hoping that I could get some shots from this privileged spot. Realizing that I was trapped in the corner of 44th street, surrounded by police officers and buses, I stayed to hear the concert. Suddenly, I saw a security officer coming;

behind him was a man wearing an elegant white furry coat, and I recognized him as the Ko-

rean pop-star PSY. Thinking it was too good to be true and still bearing the excitement of seeing my first celebrity in person, I saw more people coming. Though hard to recognize among a crowd dressed in black, Carly Rae Jepsen was nearby and approaching one of the buses surrounding me. Within the last hour of 2012, I had seen two of the biggest stars of the year, the most unexpected yet amazing way to end my 2012.

The last thing I did was speak with one of the security officers. He told me that inside the big door was a party held by the ABC channel, which explained all the famous celebrities gathering at the corner of 44th street. The security officer asked me if I was a photographer. I said no, but I told him that I have a big dream that seems impossible to accomplish, and he said, "Never say that something is impos-

sible". A click sounded in my head; suddenly he reminded me of "nothing is impossible,"



Carly Rae Jepsen on 44th Street times Square

Elena Chong • guest photographer

a phrase that has lived inside of me during all these years.

It was 3:00 AM when I finally got home. I woke up the next morning thinking about the last crazy hours we had. However, I was soon brought back to Earth by the calculus book sitting on my desk. The excitement of the last few hours disconnected me entirely of my engineering life, but it was time to get back. The Hollywood lifestyle can wait, but Dr. Joenathan's holiday assignment cannot.

WINNING STREAK STILL ALIVE, FROM PAGE 1

The Engineers are a perfect 7 - 0 in conference matchups so far this season, and their only loss came early in the season to Carroll University, who are still receiving votes in the national poll.

In order to maintain the hot streak, Rose-Hulman has continued to play hard on the defensive end, ranking No. 1 across all NCAA divisions in scoring defense, allowing just 46.7 points per game from their opponents. The stunning statistic includes holding eight opponents to 45 points or less, five of those at or below 40 points.

How does a team with such diverse offensive threats maintain themselves as a consistent defensive stronghold? Coach Shaw says his philosophy is very simple.

"Don't make mistakes; don't give up anything easy; make the other team take contested jump shots then get the defensive rebound," he said, adding that while it may seem simple, they "put a lot

of effort into implementing that philosophy."

And it has worked so far. While every player on the floor is a scoring threat, each man contributes significantly to defensive statistics each game.

Seniors Brenton Balsbaugh and Jon Gerken have proven themselves threats from the inside; Balsbaugh averages 1.1 blocks and 3.1 defensive rebounds per game, and Gerken

pulls down 4.2 defensive rebounds and has nabbed 1.2 steals per contest.

The Fightin' Engineers also don't give up any easy points either.

As a team, Rose-Hulman is third

Division III in terms of personal fouls per game, committing just 12.8 on average.

Much of what the Engineers have been able to do comes from an experienced lineup, bringing energy and mental toughness off the bench in addition to the solid starting five.

In addition to Balsbaugh and Gerken, senior Austin Weatherford and juniors Julian Strickland and James Pillischafske have spent the majority of the season as starters, backed up by a talented group of guys who come off the bench to hold up the de-

fense and put points on the board.



Strickland averages 13.9 points per game, followed by Weatherford at 10.5, and senior Nate Gissentanner has provided depth with 6.8 points per game. After praising his starting brigade, Coach Shaw paid big compliments to the bench, including juniors Jake Dodd, Jordy Martin, and Alec Houpt along with freshman Jimmy Miller.

"Nate could easily start but I love his energy off the bench. Jake and Jordy have both played well enough to challenge for a starting spot... I think we have 6 perimeter guys who are all very capable, talented, and experienced. Alec and Jimmy give us different things and I am pleased with their development."

Shaw even admitted he had a rash of talent who don't get to play many minutes due to the nature of the game, saying, "There are only so many minutes. It is a nice problem to have."

And to remain successful, the Engineers will need to continue that problem. Having played just three conference games on the road so far this season, Rose-Hulman will face six of their nine HCAC competitors on the road, including three in a row against Defiance, Earlham, and Hanover, to finish out the regular season.

To maintain the momentum for the last two months of the regular season will require a dose of the same medicine the guys have been taking so far, according to Coach Shaw.

"There is no particular strategy to staying on top. Just be the best we can be and keep winning... Play hard. Don't worry about streaks, standings, rankings, or any of that... Just get better and play our best."

Lady Engineers finish week of HCAC action 2 - 1

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

Rose-Hulman's women's basketball team wrapped up three consecutive away games in the conference season Wednesday night, topping Earlham 65 - 58, overpowering Mount St. Joseph 53 - 43, and falling 57 - 64 in a late rally to Anderson.

The team started off looking for their first HCAC win of the season last Wednesday with a game at Earlham College.

With three players in double figures, the Lady Engineers were able to withstand a rally by the Quakers to snag the 65 - 58 victory. Junior Kelsey Ploof led Rose-Hulman with a 17-point, 14-rebound double-double.

Freshman Addie Johnson tied her career-high with 15 points, also dishing out four assists and grabbing three rebounds in the contest. Freshman Cassidy Cain showed some scoring prowess with a career-high 13 points.

The Lady Engineers were ultimately able to outscore the Quakers with strong three-point shooting, finishing six of 12 from beyond the arc, including three treys from Cain.

Winning boosted Rose-Hulman into a Saturday afternoon game at College of Mount St. Joseph. It was déjà vu all over again as three

Lady Engineers scored double figures, and two players posted career-high efforts before bringing home the 53 - 43 win.

Johnson shattered her career-high with 19 points, with another four assists and six rebounds. Freshman Carrie Morris sank a pair from beyond the arc and another pair from inside to post a career-high 10 points. Ploof rounded out the effort with 11 points and a trio of rebounds.

Free throws made the difference this time, as the Lady Engineers shot a perfect 14 of 14 from the charity stripe, while Earlham failed to connect on nine out of their 15 opportunities.

Hoping to round out a week of play with a third-straight conference "W," Johnson and Ploof led the way again with 15 points and 14 points, respectively. Ploof also brought down 16 rebounds for another double-double.

Unfortunately, Anderson's 65% shooting in the first half broke the lead too far open for the Lady Engineers to make a comeback.

After the loss, Rose-Hulman stands at 6 - 8 overall and 2 - 5 in conference action. The Fightin' Engineers will open Saturday afternoon's games with a 1 p.m. matchup against Transylvania University in Hulbert Arena.

Weatherford hits milestone in win over Anderson

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

The No. 23 Fightin' Engineers improved to 7 - 0 in HCAC competition with a 69 - 40 home win against in-state rival Anderson University Wednesday night.

Rose-Hulman played 15 guys in the effort; ten put points on the board, and four were in double figures by the end of the contest.

Despite the results on the stat sheet, no score could outshine senior Austin Weatherford's seven points, a total which puts him at 1,004 points in his career as a Fightin' Engineer. Weatherford is the 28th player to

cross the 1,000-point mark at Rose-Hulman.

Junior James Pillischafske lit up the scoreboard with two consecutive baskets from beyond the arc to start the game; he and fellow junior Julian Strickland led all scorers with 13 points each. Strickland also grabbed five rebounds and snatched a pair of steals during his 22 minutes on the court.

The Fightin' Engineers will put their perfect HCAC record and 11-game winning streak on the line this Saturday in a matchup of conference leaders when they face Transylvania University in Hulbert Arena.

Senior Nate Gissentanner skyling to the rim.
Rose-Hulman Athletics

Wacky
prof
quotes

“If something looks weird, please call it out to me, because I have no idea what I’m doing today.”
–Dr. Simoni. You’ve got one on me. I don’t even know what class this is...

“It’s all about technique, baby!”
–Dr. House. Please, everyone knows that size is all that matters. We’re talking about sub-sandwiches, right?

“Teaching these students is the worst. I can’t stand anyone in this place!”
–Said no professor, ever. See what happens when we don’t get enough quotes? We have to make them up.

THIS
SPACE
FOR
RENT

Rose professors say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu for a chance to win a 25\$ Visa gift card!

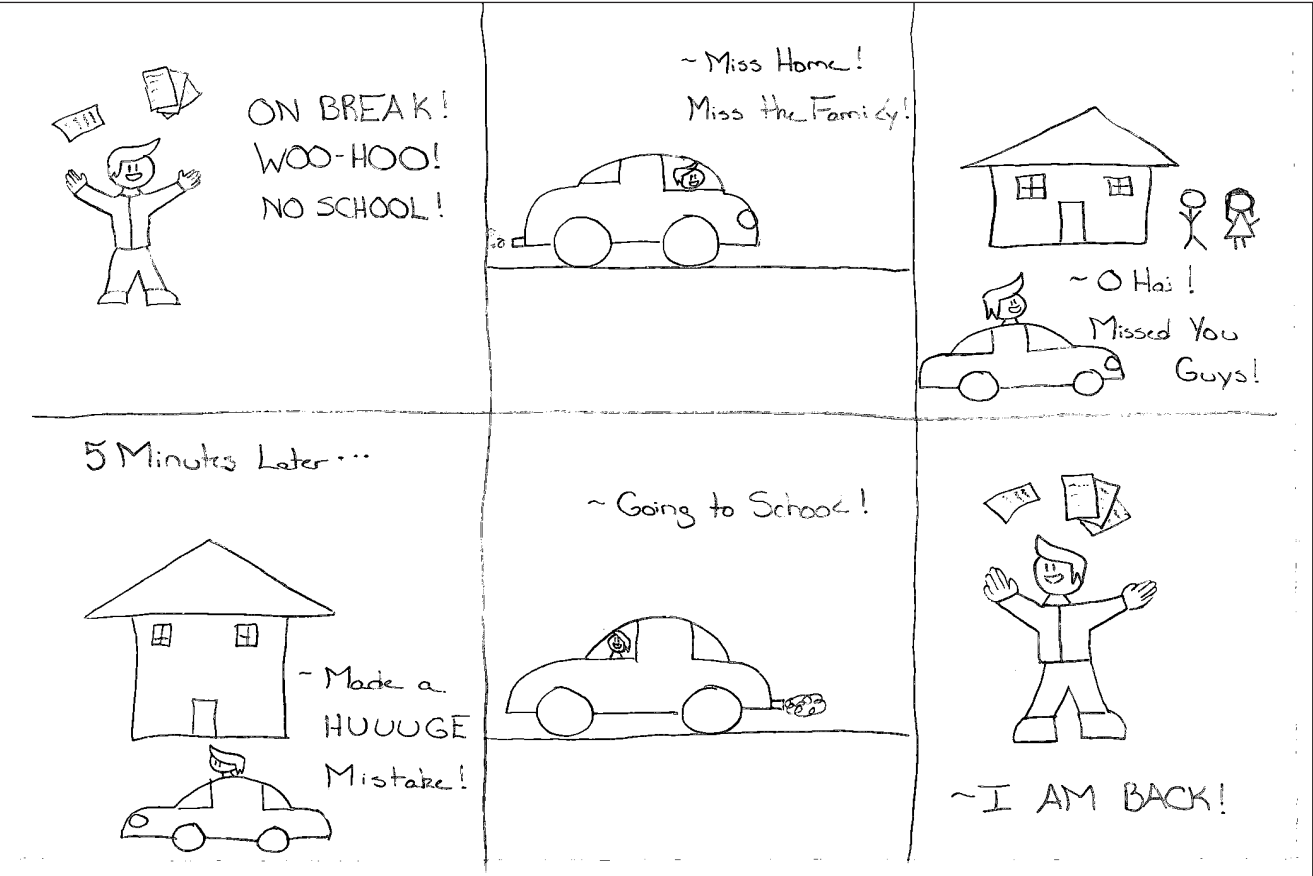
Top “12” Ten

Not particularly ordered romance tips

Man Daginot and Ben-Jammin Waters
crime fighting duo

- 1. Men, wear your jorts and tell a lady you’re out on the romance prowl. It’ll subtly make her think of herself as a viable smooch candidate.
- 2. Men, stop wearing deodorant when you’re out on the romance prowl. Ladies love a good musk machine.

- 3. Men, if you’re not casually dropping MC Hammer lyrics into conversation, don’t expect a second date.
- 4. Men, your friends probably won’t believe that you got a date, so be sure to take a lot of pictures.
- 5. Ladies, avoid controversial topics on your date. Try discussing cooler things, like scabs, or that stomach worm you had that one time.
- 6. Ladies, Quit wasting money on expensive perfumes. Just roll a stick of butter on your wrists and neck to get that same sultry effect.
- 7. Ladies, Hunks are attracted to smell. Keep a few strips of beef jerky in your pocket to give you the edge against those other girls.
- 8. This holiday season, get that special lady/fella in your life the gift that keeps on giving: pajama jorts.
- 9. When you think a girl/boy is cute, follow them around for a while until you can create a chance encounter. A little stalking never hurt anyone.
- 10. The best offense is a good defense. Stay in this Friday and work on your Dr. Who/Harry Potter slash-fiction
- 11. Shake up your wardrobe, undo a couple of middle buttons on your shirt.
- 12. Need to spice up your marriage? Install back-to-back toilets, his and hers.



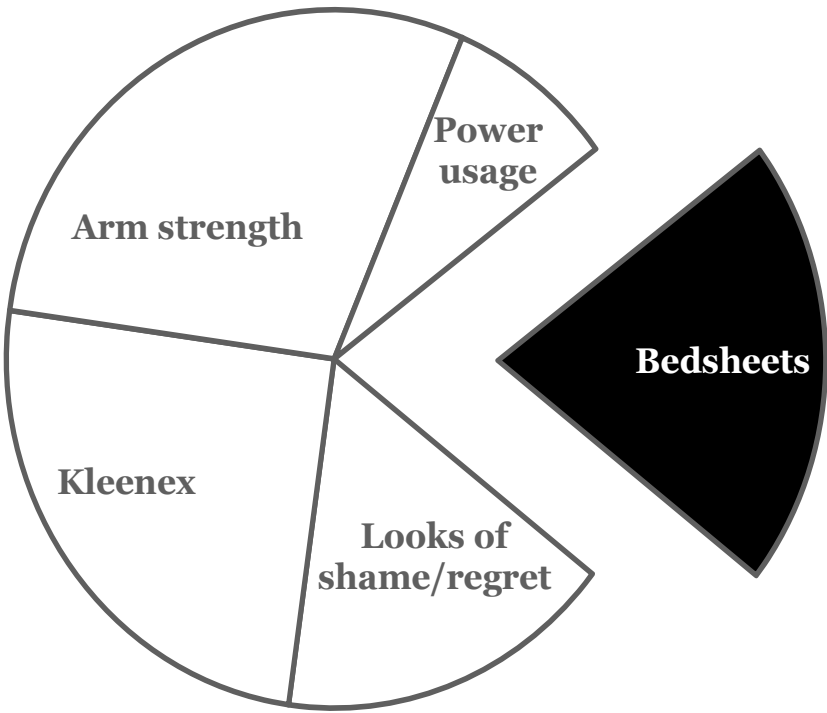
Ethan Hixon • as the British would say, a “drawrer”

What changed after break?

Brawn Brosky • Barely Brawn

Students meandered back onto campus last sunday after a well needed Winter break. Upon their return, they were greeted to a pleasant surprise: an increase in the bandwidth cap. Student now have the ability to download (or upload) up to 8 Gb in a 36 hour sliding window, or something. The point is, 8 Gb, woo! Now students will be able to stream their sports and watch their Netflix all they want without worrying about being demoted to the painful 1024 kbs, a fate I wouldn’t even wish on my worst enemies. With the increase in bandwidth, the Flipside wondered what other changes, social or technical, the new year has brought. Through a survey of sveral hundred students, trends in certain characteristics and items were identified. The pie chart on the left shows the relative increase in each of these characteristics.

RELATIVE INCREASE IN USE



Axel Skullans • pre-pre-future editor